



Friday 20th March 2020

School closure information for parents/carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Government announced that all schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March until further notice. This means that for the majority of our children, Friday will be their last day in school for what could be a considerable period of time.

I hope you can understand and support the actions we are taking as a Trust, to play our part in helping our community tackle Coronavirus and the significant impact it is having upon us all.

The Government has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, all schools have been asked to provide care for children with Education Health Care Plans, Children who have a contact Social Worker, e.g., 'Children in Need' or those on the Child Protection Register and any Children in Care (LAC) and children of 'key workers' (see below). All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. This is a national closure, as you may have heard in the news, so while it is a challenging situation, we are all in this together.

Key Workers

To enable key workers to remain at work during this period of need their children will be in school. The definition of key workers is as follows:

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, school support staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If parents/carers do not fall into one of the categories above, their children must not be in school.

Our teachers have been putting together educational guidance to support pupils' learning at home, including provision of a wide range of sources for information and learning that can be accessed electronically and by hard copy. Your school will be in contact later today with more details about its home learning support which will be available from next week.

The Education Secretary has confirmed that there will be no primary school assessments or secondary exams this summer, which includes SATs, GCSE and A Level examinations. I appreciate that this news will be very upsetting for students who have worked so hard and that you and they will have a number of questions that you want answering. We will do everything in our power to press Ofqual to ensure our students get the qualifications they need and deserve. We are told that more details will be given out later today covering how students would be awarded grades in the absence of exams. Once we have this information we will update you if there is anything we need you to do.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we can provide this service with support from a scheme that the Government has just announced, but the details of the scheme are not clear just yet.

If you have a safeguarding concern on Friday or during next week, please use your school's usual contact numbers for the time being.

This is as much as we know right now. We appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Please remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, use NHS 111 online.

I wish to thank all our school staff who have worked so hard in recent days to keep our schools open, and who will continue to do so over the coming months. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this period of challenge for us all.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Campbell
CEO
Brooke Weston Trust